

Remarks

Rejection under 35 U.S.C §103

Claim 14 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Sugeno in view of Koshiha. In the interest of moving this application to issue, Applicants have cancelled claim 14 without prejudice and expressly reserving the right to present these claims in a future divisional or continuation application.

Allowable subject matter

Applicants acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowability as to claims 1-5, 8-13, 15 and 18.

\* \* \*

Applicants submit that the application is now in condition for allowance. Allowance of the application at an early date is respectfully requested.

The Applicants reserve the right to seek protection for any unclaimed subject matter either subsequently in the prosecution of the present case or in a divisional or continuation application.

\* \* \*

The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees, which may be required or credit overpayment to deposit account no. 12-0415. In particular, if this response is not timely filed, then the Commissioner is authorized to treat this response as including a petition to extend the time period pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136 (a) requesting an extension of time of the number of months necessary to make this response timely filed. The petition fee due in connection therewith may be charged to deposit account no. 12-0415.

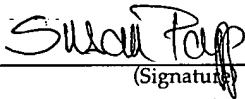
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Post Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Mail Stop Non-Fee Amendment, Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on

January 20, 2005

(Date of Transmission)

Susan Papp

(Name of Person Transmitting)



(Signature)

1/20/05

(Date)

Respectfully submitted,



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